

Application No.: 10/674594

Case No.: 58460US002

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending.

Specification and Abstract

The Specification stands under objection in regard to an informality. The Specification is amended herein as suggested by the Examiner.

The Abstract stands under objection for overlength. The Abstract is amended and shortened herein.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 1-25 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,879,827 (Debe) taken alone. Applicants respectfully traverse.

It is axiomatic that, in order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness of a claim, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. In re Royka, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974); In re Wilson, 424 F.2d 1382, 1385, 165 USPQ 494, 496 (CCPA 1970)(cited at MPEP § 2143.03). In the present case, no prima facie case of obviousness have been established because the cited reference fails to teach or suggest claim limitations recited in the present claims. Indeed, the Office Action recognizes numerous claim limitations recited in all of the present claims that are not taught in Debe (Office Action at pages 4-10), including:

- a first layer comprising platinum and said second layer being an alloy or intimate mixture of iron and a second metal selected from the group consisting of Group VIb metals, Group VIIb metals and Group VIIIb metals other than platinum and iron,
- where the atomic ratio of iron to said second metal in said second layer is between 0 and 10,
- where the planar equivalent thickness ratio of said first layer to said second layer is between 0.3 and 5, and
- wherein the average bilayer planar equivalent thickness of said first and second layers is less than 100 Å.

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Claims 2-18 and 20-25 add additional features to independent claims 1 and 19, including features also not found in the single cited reference. Thus, claims 2-18 and 20-25 are patentable for those additional reasons.

Since no prima facie case of obviousness is made over this single reference, the rejection has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

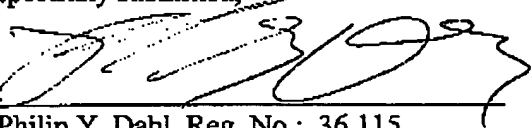
In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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